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NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

Annapolis Valley Regional Library (AVRL)

Annual In-service

AVRL's annual staff in-service was held on June 2. As usual, all service points were closed and all staff attend. This year's agenda consisted of:

Round-Table Problem-Solving - This session was back by popular demand. Eight groups of seven or eight staff members of various backgrounds such as public, administration, and CAP, reviewed five situational questions together to develop various ideas/alternatives/solutions.

Author Presentation -This year's genre was romance, with author Julianne MacLean in attendance. Julianne has written three novels for Harlequin Historicals, one for Silhouette Desire, and is now working on a series for Avon books about American heiresses in London in the late -Victorian period. This presentation was enjoyed by all.

Installing Updates on Your Personal Computer - With the threat of a new virus each week, installing updates is critical. AVRL's technician offered instruction and assistance to staff.

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome & Workplace Ergonomics - An information session presented by a local physiotherapist.

The Publisher - Gaspereau Press representatives prepared an informative and fun session on the behind-the-scenes of the publishing business.

Babies & Books - Staff member Lori Noseworthy presented her lapsit program to other staff interested in pursuing this program.

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The day closed with a wrap-up session of the round-table solutions and other regional issues.

Cape Breton Regional Library (CBRL)

Toddler Time and Preschool Story Time have come to an end for the summer. Bev McGee, who runs the Preschool Story Time at the McConnell Library had a special closing party for the preschoolers. A few of the children who have attended the Story Time sessions regularly for a couple of years are starting school in September. When the programs starts again in the fall, the Toddler Times and Preschool Story Times may be extended by a week or two. Currently, the sessions consist of five week blocks.

During the months of May and June, the program room at the McConnell Library hosted a number of Art Shows. Three local artist/ instructors -Gail Linden, Iris Currie and Debbie Couture showcased their students' artwork. The library enjoyed providing a space to display some of the talents of the community.

Colchester-East Hants Regional Library (CEHRL)

Annual Book Sale

Under the canopy on the Truro Library lawn, CEHRL's annual book sale, with games, crafts and prizes for children, drew large crowds during the Truro Tulip Festival in May. Prizes were courtesy of the Adopt-a-Library Literacy Program. Thanks go to the volunteers from the Library Foundation and the Teen Friends of the Library to the Investors Group for the loan of the canopy and a $400 donation to the library.

Foundational Training in Family Literacy Institute

Michelle Bowden, Project Coordinator, Family Literacy Research Project, CEHRL, offered the Foundational Training in Family Literacy Institute to family literacy practitioners in Nova Scotia at the Debert Hospitality Centre from May 12 to 16. The Nova Scotia Provincial Library provided the opportunity for one person from each public library region to attend. Thirty-seven participants took part in the10 session, 5 day training. There were 3 trainers from New Brunswick and 2 from Nova Scotia. It was a very successful event, with a lot of tired folks heading home with new networking contacts and program ideas.

Comments included:

"Great networking and ideas for incorporating literacy into existing programs."

"Applications I can use in my programs! Between shared discussions and knowledge of staff, I am leaving with info that I never had when I came."

"All these ideas from talking to people have me revved up to try and do new things."

"Each trainer gave important info in each session. Personal experience in their fields led to wonderful workshops loaded with hands on info. Just as important as the information the trainer gave to the workshops was the experience and info each participant brought to the workshop."

The training materials were developed by the Edmonton-based Centre for Family Literacy to provide family literacy practitioners across the country with the same training and knowledge with which to begin and/or support their programming. It is also a great networking opportunity, as folks from across different sectors and regions in each province are represented. The National Literacy Secretariat and the Department of Education, Adult Education Division generously provided funding for this training.

Cumberland Regional Library

In June CURL unveiled its new and improved website at **www.crl.library.ns.ca**. The new site created by Systems Librarian Jolene Shaw is more user friendly with additional links and information about the library. Children's authors Linda Bailey and Julie Lawson visited Cumberland County as part of their Hackmatack tour at the end of May. Kids in Amherst, Springhill and Oxford enjoyed readings with Linda Bailey, while students from Parrsboro, River Hebert and Northport were treated to a visit with Julie Lawson. Three staff members attended the Hackmatack Award ceremony in Moncton and had a great time.

Author Julie Lawson reading to students at the River Herbert Library.

Several summer students have been hired for CAP sites throughout Cumberland County. CURL provided an orientation session for CAP students working in both library and non-library sites throughout the County on June 14. The students will provide summer computer camps for kids as well as training for the general public. Two additional students have been hired for the summer as well. Karen Bishop will serve as the Summer Reading Club Coordinator again this year and Nathaniel Marshall has been hired to work on a Business Room Project for the CURL's webpage.

Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL)

In recognition of the 2004 recent Access Awareness Week in Nova Scotia, multiple copies of two titles were presented to ECRL by the Strait Accessibility Awareness Committee. The books, written by Carolyn MacDiarmid, help children develop a positive awareness of disabilities and are a project of the Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work. *Wendy Blair and the Assignment* is the second in a series of books that feature the attributes and antics of Wendy Blair, a young girl who succeeds in helping others see beyond her disability. Last year the committee donated copies of the first book, *I'm Wendy Blair, not a chair!* to ECRL in memory of Joan Briggs.

Left to right: Marion Mackenzie, Port Hawkesbury Branch Library Assistant, receives this year's presentation from Rilla MacLean, Chairperson of the Strait Accessibility Awareness Committee.

Nova Scotian author Susan Haley visited libraries and schools in Margaree Forks, Whycocomagh and Petit de Grat during the second week in June thanks to funding from the Canada Council for the Arts. In addition to reading from her latest novel, *The Murder of Medicine Bear*, to patrons at the Coady-Tompkins Library in Margaree Forks, and at the library in Petit de Grat, Ms. Haley presented a children's writing session to the grades 3 and 4 students at the We'koqmaq First Nations Elementary School in Whycocomagh. Ms. Haley also had the chance to enjoy old-fashioned hospitality, as library staff billeted Susan in their homes during her 3-day tour.

Author Susan Haley reads from her book The Murder of Medicine Bear at the Coady-Tompkins Library in Margaree Forks.

Sherbrooke Library recently held a Teddy Bear's Picnic to celebrate the final story time of the season. Receiving a certificate of participation and a children's book is Kyla MacDonald who assured Library Assistant Lesley Brothers that she would be back for the story time in the fall.

ECRL's Lesley Brothers presents a book and certificate to Kyla MacDonald.

ECRL recently held its annual staff day at the Mulgrave Professional Centre. The agenda included updates by the Chief Librarian and members of the management team, a Powerpoint presentation outlining the upcoming migration to Unicorn operating system, and a sharing of ideas for the TD Summer Reading Program. A highlight of the day was the presentation of staff service awards.

Left to right: Board Chair Joe Walsh presents Staff Service Awards to Dave Cumby (20 years), Chief Librarian; Mildred Carrigan (35 years), Library Assistant, Reference and Inter-Library Loans; Terri Morse (5 years) Library Assistant, Cyril Ward Library/School Services; and Annmarie Bieber (5 years) Library Assistant, Cyril Ward Library.

ECRL Board of Directors Annual General Meeting held in June. In attendance were (left to right) Joe Walsh, Chair, Ned MacDonald, Kirk Stone. Malcolm Beaton (incoming Vice-Chair), Joe Janega, Art Carter, Treasure, Myles MacPherson and Dave Cumby, Chief Librarian. Missing from the photo were Mary Margaret MacLean and James Harpell.

Joyce Rankin MacDonald and daughter Mairi pose in front of the collection of children's books donated to the library in memory of Joyce's daughter Isobel Catherine Rankin MacDonald, who passed away in 2002. The books are housed at the Judique Library Link site. Over 50 books were purchased in Isobel's memory.

Halifax Public Libraries (HPL)

Librarian Linda Hodgins Wins Mayor's Award for Cultural Achievement in Literature

The Mayor's Award for Cultural Achievement in Literature, given out at the annual Atlantic Writing Awards ceremony, recognizes outstanding literary contributions made by a resident of the Halifax Regional Municipality. This year's recipient, Linda Hodgins, is already a well recognized name in the children's book community, both here and across the country. Hodgins has been a dedicated advocate for literacy, writing and reading throughout her career.

Linda has worked in nearly every facet of library service from Youth Services Coordinator for the Dartmouth Regional Library, to her current role as Regional Services Manager for Halifax Public Libraries. In every capacity she has demonstrated imagination and creativity, earning a national reputation as an innovative, leading librarian.

Linda's vision and leadership have benefited the numerous literary projects she has been involved with, including the Nova Scotia Children's Literature Roundtable, IWK's Read to Me Program and countless prestigious literary awards. She is especially passionate about children's literature, lending her time and talents to the Our Choice Selection for the Canadian Children's Book Centre, and serving on the jury for many regional and national awards, including the Mr Christie Book Award, and the Governor General's Literary Award for Children's Literature.

As one of the original pioneers who developed and promoted the prestigious Ann Connor Brimer Award, Linda continues to serve on the steering committee for this award. More recently, Linda also helped lay the groundwork

for Atlantic Canada's first children's choice book award – the Hackmatack Children's Choice Award.

Under Linda's direction, the Halifax Public Libraries' Summer Reading Program has grown into an award winning program - stimulating a love of reading among thousands of children. Beyond the Summer Reading Program, her commitment to family literacy and shared reading continues to result in exciting new programs for the citizens of Halifax.

Over the years, Linda has coached and mentored countless public librarians. With her quiet but strong brand of leadership, good humour, dedication to public service, and passion for local culture and the literary community, she embodies the ideals of public librarianship at its best.

HPL's Board and staff congratulate Linda on this well deserved honour.

HPL's Linda Hodgins receiving the Mayor's Award for Cultural Achievement in Literature.

Renovations and Improvements Slated for Halifax North Memorial Public Library

Later this summer Halifax North Memorial Public Library will undergo renovations, both inside and out, to modernize the facility, make it more inviting and to allow for improved services. The library is viewed as an important centre for the North End and community consultations identified the site as a high priority for HRM's Capital District.

The refurbishment will include: new carpeting, shelving and lighting throughout the entire Library; a newly designed Information Desk; and a complete redesign of the exterior grounds in front of the library to be completed by Capital District. The grounds will be open and more inviting with benches, gardens and new walkways.

At the height of renovations the Halifax North Memorial Public Library will close for up to one week.

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (PARL)

RCMP Constable John Kennedy of the Adopt-A-Library Literacy Program and (left to right) Stacy Munroe of PARL's Children's Programming Department accept a cheque for $1,000 from Sharon DeYoung of Wal-Mart, New Glasgow in support of the Summer Reading Program.

Author Readings

What do the Maritime writers Billy Budge, Kenneth J. Harvey, Harry Thurston, and Greg M. Cook all have in common? All four writers were short listed for prizes with the 2004 Atlantic Writing Awards. As a promotional lead in to the annual ceremony, the foursome read from their respective books at the New Glasgow Library Program Room on Thursday, May 20. Special thanks go out to the Writers Federation of Nova Scotia and Executive Director, Jane Buss for making this evening possible.

Left to right: authors Billy Budge, Kenneth J. Harvey. Harry Thurston and Greg M. Cook (seated) during a group reading at the New Glasgow Library Program Room.

M.S. Book Donation

The New Glasgow Library, as its contribution to Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month in Canada, offered a public information session May 12. Hosted by the Pictou County Chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada, the program was open to the pubic and helped to share information, support and resources with those afflicted with MS and their families. During the session, the Pictou County Chapter donated 22 new Multiple Sclerosis resource books to the PARL collection. Funds for the purchase were made available by the local RBC Financial Group outlet. This generous donation of recently published titles will greatly enhance and update the library's selection of resource books on the subject. Thanks go to the RBC Financial Group and the Pictou County Chapter for this contribution.

Local Writer's Group Launches New Book

The Pictou County Writer's Group launched its first collection of short stories and poems, *The East River Anthology*, at a launch party and Open Mic session on Friday, June 11, at 7:00 p.m. Featuring cover art by member and painter Oran MacLean, the 55 page book offers work by 22 members. More than 200 copies have been printed. With over 40 registered members, the group meets once a month to share information and offer mutual support in their publishing and writing efforts.

Pictou County Writer's Group member Dora Green proudly displays a copy of the group's first publication *The East River Anthology*.

Patsy Paul Martin, Coordinator of First Nations Cultural Services for the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board is surrounded by students from the Trenton Elementary School after a reading from her book *Please Teach Me How To Speak Mi'kmaq*.

South Shore Regional Library (SSRL)

That's A Lotta Years!

Ninety years of public library service in Lunenburg and Queens Counties were honoured at SSRL's sixth annual staff service recognition night. The evening's honourees were Chief Librarian Janet Clark, 20 years; Barbara Himmelman, Lunenburg Branch, 20 years; Barbara Davis, Lunenburg Branch, 15 years; Teresa Workman, Library Headquarters, 15 years; Cate Bird, Liverpool Branch, 10 years; and Sharon Hiltz, Library Headquarters, 10 years.

An Oasis To Hang In Your Living Room . . . For A Small Price

SSRL's newly-constituted Friends group are embarking on their second fundraising raffle and hope to build on the success of their first effort in April. New Germany area artist J. Thomas Hinton donated a gorgeous framed serigraph, *Oasis of the Beaver*. The Friends will attend a number of area fairs and events selling tickets. The

winning ticket will be drawn Sept. 18.

Western Counties Regional Library (WCRL)

Adopt-a- Book Update

Although the final numbers have yet to be tabulated, as of June 25 the Adopt-A-Book campaign saw 1,118 books already adopted, with an equivalent dollar value of $22,894.64! With the cost of books increasing, there had been concerns whether the library could meet its goal during this campaign. However, the public response to the campaign remains strong. The Adopt-a-Book campaign has been sponsored by CJLS Radio since its inception and receives tremendous support from media outlets throughout the region. This year's campaign included the launch of the Adopt-a-Book Challenge. The winner of the challenge will adopt the campaign mascot for a year. The success of previous campaigns, which have raised nearly $100,000 for books, has allowed WCRL maintain its budget for new books and other materials despite financial restraints. The campaign concluded on June 30.

Author Visit

Children's author Jo Ellen Bogart made four stops on her recent visit to western Nova Scotia. Bogart was traveling in association with the 2004 Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Awards. She met with a local Hackmatack reading club at the McKay Memorial Library in Shelburne before addressing a school assembly at Forest Ridge Academy in Barrington. The next day, Jo Ellen received a warm welcome at another school assembly at Digby Neck Consolidated School, before her appearance at the Westport Library on Brier Island. Her Book, *Capturing Joy: The Story of Maud Lewis*, was a finalist in the Atlantic Canadian book awards program.

Bogart, a native of Texas, has been fascinated by na ve art most of her life. Moving to Canada in 1975, she learned about the works of Maud Lewis and decided to write a book for children about this woman, who painted her world with childlike innocence. Maud Lewis grew up in Yarmouth before moving to Marshalltown outside of Digby and marrying. Despite pain and poverty, her paintings are infused with joy. Lewis died in 1970, but her work lives on. The readings are made possible with support from the Canada Council for the Arts, and through the on-going collaboration of provincial and city library systems throughout Atlantic Canada.

Author Jo Ellen Bogart reading to children at the Westport Library.

WCRL Palliative Donation Helps Kids Cope

How do you talk to your kids about dying? The South West Health Palliative Care Working Group has donated a series of books to WCRL which will help people as they grapple with this tough question. The collection includes children's picture books, books for teens and resources for parents and teachers. Rosanne d'Eon, Supportive Care Coordinator at South West Health, says the group decided to use the power of the regional library system to ensure broad distribution of the collection across the entire region.

Education Minister Hears Plea For Stable Funding During Visit

WCRL Chair Gary Archibald (right) explains to Education Minister Jamie Muir and Yarmouth MLA Richard Hurlburt (centre) how the library's Adopt-a-Book program works, during a recent tour of headquarters. The Board Chair used the opportunity to thank the government for its decision to inject additional money into the province's public library system and urged him to consider adding the money injected this year to the core funding for libraries in next year's budget. Minister Muir was in Yarmouth, along with the rest of the Progressive Conservative caucus, for regional meetings.

Western Counties Says Farewell To Longest Serving Librarian

Deputy Director Virginia Stoddard recently retired after a 34-year career with WCRL. She began her career here travelling across the region with the bookmobile service and in the intervening years became a driving force behind the library's move to automation. Most recently, Virginia has been the lead staff member responsible for overseeing the Smart Library partnership, which has led to the development of the library's full-service web site.

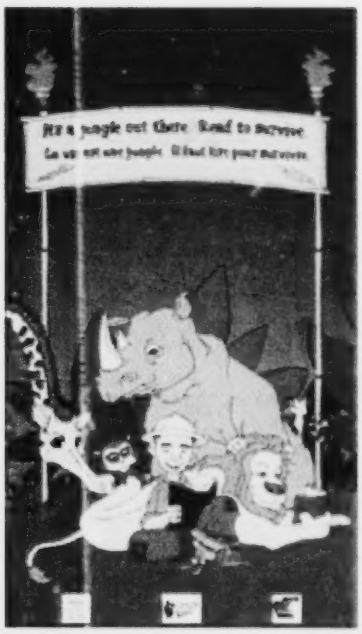
Retiring Librarian Virginia Stoddard receives her walking stick, a gag gift that is making the rounds at WCRL retirements parties.

SUMMER READING CLUBS KICK-OFF

TD NATIONAL SUMMER READING CLUB

Six of Nova Scotia's Public Libraries: AVRL, CBRL, CURL, ECRL, SSRL and WCRL have joined eight other Canadian provinces and territories to partner with the TD Bank Financial Group and Library and Archives Canada for the first ever TD National Summer Reading Club. The theme for this trial year is a quest for dragons with the slogan *Fire up your Imagination! Dragons, Books and Quests/Je br le de lire! En Qu te des Dragons Fabuleaux*. The promotional components of this bilingual program are a letter signed by the National Librarian, Roch Carrier, inviting schools to participate; a bookmark to encourage children to enroll; staff manuals providing resources such as ideas on how to run a successful reading club, clipart, booklists, certificates of participation and completion, and games; and a summer reading kit for participants which includes a poster, stickers and activity booklet. TD Bank Financial Group funds the reading Club.

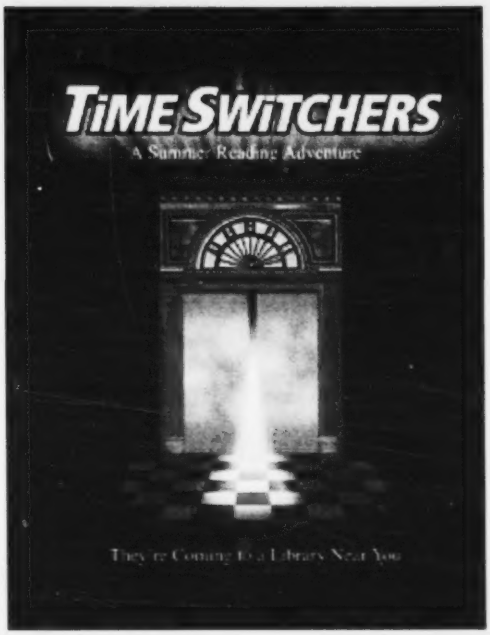
COLCHESTER-EAST HANTS REGIONAL LIBRARY (CEHRL) / PICTOU-ANTIGONISH REGIONAL LIBRARY (PARL)



PARL and CEHRL have partnered for the second consecutive year on this year's Summer Reading Program. The theme for 2004 is a safari theme, with the slogan *It's a jungle out there, read to survive/La vie est un jungle. Il faut lire pour survivre*. Promotional materials will include bucket hats with a logo of a red torch with *Read to Survive / Il Faut Lire pour Survivre* on it. Once again the Adopt-a-Library Program is helping with the incentives. For the first time CEHRL will extend the program to include adults - to promote the fact that children need role models for reading for pleasure. PARL is also considering including adult readers.

HALIFAX PUBLIC LIBRARIES (HPL)

HPL's Summer Reading Adventure 2004's slogan is *Time Switchers* with a theme of time travel. The story revolves around four present day youth who through the magic of time travel are transported to medieval times. Here they face a challenge to help a young princess in peril and to find a safe return to present times. Registration at most branches got underway the week of June 21, with the program regional launch event held at Pier 21 on June 18. Promotional vehicles include full colour posters and banners for all branches; "stand-up" display of summer reading characters (similar to those seen in movie theatres); paid advertising including: radio, newspaper, bus shelter; reading log books for children to track progress; certificates of completion (signed by the mayor); promotional flyers (used mainly during staff visits to schools); and family programming (exact program concepts yet to be confirmed); mailing of bookbuddies poster to local daycares; set of collectable character cards (similar to last year) to be used as program prizes; a section of website dedicated to this year's program and theme which will include games and a weekly chapter; and HPL will provide outreach kits to day camps (a goal of one group per branch) and will also give each of the 14 groups a set of books to assist them in running the program independently.

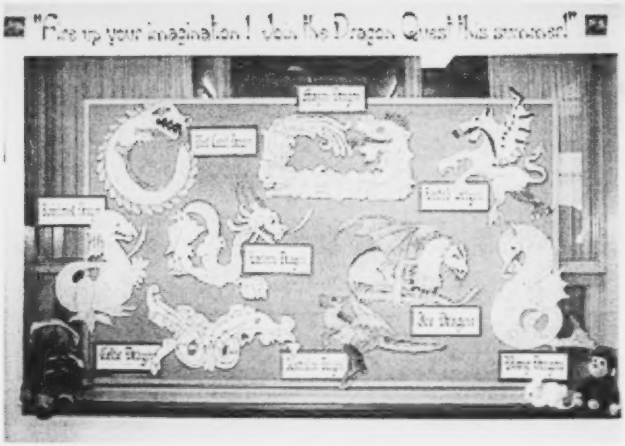


CAPE BRETON REGIONAL LIBRARY SUMMER READING CLUB

On Saturday, June 19, CBRL kicked-off it's Summer Reading Program 2004. This year the library is participating with the TD Summer Reading Club's theme of a *dragon quest* and accompanying slogan *Fire up Your Imagination!* The registration numbers on the first day of the program were impressive and included lots of positive feedback from the participating children. CBRL staff members who kicked-off this year's Summer Reading Program matched the children's enthusiasm by getting dressed up for the event! Here's to a hot summer of fun and reading!

CBRL staff dressed in medieval costume for the Summer Reading Kick-Off at the McConnell Library.

CBRL's Summer Reading Club dragon bulletin board.



COLCHESTER-EAST HANTS REGIONAL LIBRARY SUMMER READING CLUB

It's A Jungle Out There. Read to survive.

CEHRL's summer reading program for 2004 *It's A Jungle Out There. Read To* Survive has inspired passports for each participant, the sale of tan-coloured bucket hats, with torch and theme imprinted on the front, links to cool jungles sites, and games on the library's web site. One branch has a *thatched* jungle hut that intrepid readers, some wearing their special hats, can visit. Moms and dads, aunts and uncles, and all adult friends are being encouraged *to get with the program* and be seen reading this summer. They can share their thoughts on the books they've read and fill in ballots for some great weekly prizes!

CUMBERLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY SUMMER READING CLUB

The Summer Reading Club started on June 21 and kick-off parties were held in Amherst, Springhill, Parrsboro, Pugwash and River Hebert. Kids are excited about this year's dragon theme and registration for the program is going well. Local sponsors were solicited to raise the funds needed to purchase t-shirts and additional prizes. Thanks are extended to the Amherst Lion's Club, Access Labels, C-Vision, Surrette Battery and Campbell's Funeral Home for their support of the Summer Reading Club.

The Teen Reading Club will be held again this year with some modifications. This year teens in grades 7-12 can submit a ballot for every 2 hours that they read library books or magazines. The more they read the more chances to win! There will be weekly draws for prizes such as free video rentals, free food coupons, passes to the YMCA, etc. The TRC (Teen Reading Club) is sponsored by Atlantic Combustion, Sifto Salt and Scotsburn Dairy.

SOUTH SHORE REGIONAL LIBRARY SUMMER READING CLUB

Kids all over the South Shore are firing up their imaginations and joining the TD Summer Reading Club. Log books are starting to fill as kids seek out dragon books to earn extra points en route to their 25 book goal. SSRL's summer student Katie Clarke will take her dragon show on the road in early July and expects to encounter dragons at every stop.

WESTERN COUNTIES REGIONAL LIBRARY'S SUMMER READING PROGRAM

McTrivia, the popular summer reading game, is back for another year at WCRL. The operators of McDonald's Restaurants in Yarmouth and Barrington have continued their commitment to helping kids read with their sponsorship of the Summer Reading Programs at libraries throughout the region. Last year that sponsorship supported up to 75 children's summer programs. This year, WCRL has joined other libraries across the country to deliver the TD National Summer Reading Club, which provides booklets, stickers and posters free to children. The local sponsorship has allowed the library to provide programs, the McTrivia game and live shows.

NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL LIBRARY NEWS

CANADIAN SIRSI USER GROUP AT CLA

Nova Scotia Provincial Library has been involved in the development of a Canadian Sirsi User Group since the idea was first broached at CLA 2002 in Halifax. During CLA 2004, the first CSUG Annual Conference Program & AGM was chaired by Marged Dewar, NSPL Coordinator of Technical Services and CSUG Chair for 2003/2004. This half-day session was well attended by Sirsi users from across the country and included round table forums on Unicorn enhancements for Canadian sites, Unicorn 2003 release versions and Client Care. Sirsi was well represented, with presentations from senior executives including Stephen Abram (Sirsi Vice President, Innovation) and Greg Hathorn (Sirsi Vice President, Library Products). Slavko Manojlovich, Memorial University, provided a technical update on new Z39.50 features with Unicorn 2003.

Jean Foster, Windsor Public Library, is CSUG Steering Committee Chair for 2004/2005. CSUG members communicate via the Sirsi-Canada Talklist.

NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL LIBRARY ATTENDS 50+EXPO

The Nova Scotia Provincial Library (NSPL) once again hosted a booth on behalf of the Nova Scotia Public Libraries at this year's 50+Expo, *Life is what you make it!* on June 11 and 12.. The Expo was held at the Exhibition Park, Halifax, the same venue which was used successfully last year, and ran from 9 am to 6 pm both days.

The booth was ideally located close to the one entrance and was manned by NSPL staff, and volunteers from the Halifax Public Libraries (HPL). Pamphlets and brochures promoting the services offered by the public libraries of NS were given to visitors to the booth. The handouts on the Nova Scotia Health Network (NSHN), Services for Seniors, Web Sites of Interest to Seniors and the Talking Books brochures proved to be especially popular. The draw for a basket containing a Summer Reading Program t-shirt and books donated by HPL attracted the attention of many of the 6,200 Expo attendees and provided an ideal opportunity to chat about their public libraries.

Left to right: HPL's Brenda Kirwood and Janet Harrison, volunteered to meet and greet visitors to the Nova Scotia Provincial Library booth at the recent 50+Expo.

HOT TIPS AND UPDATES

PROVINCIAL ALZHEIMER CONFERENCE

The Nova Scotia Provincial Library hosted a booth at the 15th Provincial Alzheimer Conference held at the Dartmouth Holiday Inn on May 12 & 13. The Provincial Library display was part of the ongoing partnership with the Alzheimer Society of Nova Scotia. The theme of this conference was *Tough Issues in Alzheimer Care*. There were 130 participants at the conference which included caregivers, physicians, educators, representatives of community groups, researchers, family members, students, volunteers and representatives of the Alzheimer Society. Information sessions and workshops were held throughout the two day conference on a number of topics, including the latest research in Alzheimer disease, issues relating to the care of Alzheimer patients, better access to anti-dementia drugs and the impact of the disease on patients and their families.

The Provincial Library display consisted of brochures describing the organization of the regional public library

system in the province, examples of the various books and videos available at local libraries on the Alzheimer Disease and pamphlets describing the Nova Scotia Health Network. The display received many favorable comments from conference participants who were very appreciative of the role of public libraries in disseminating much needed information on this disease.

NOVA SCOTIA DIGITAL COLLECTIONS INITIATIVE

In June, an expanded NSDCI Steering Committee welcomed new members. Joining the Committee are: Hansel Cook, Patrick Power Library, Archives, Saint Mary's University; David MacDonald, Systems and Library Technology Manager, *Nova Scotia Legislative Library*; Karen Parusel, Community Access Program, Office of Economic Development; Jolene Shaw, Systems Librarian, Cumberland Regional Library. As well, Eric Stackhouse, Chief Librarian Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library, has accepted the position of Chair for the coming year.

Acting on the feedback from the NSDCI Open Meeting in April, the Steering Committee has begun planning programs for the coming year. Watch for the publication of a new NSDCI brochure shortly. For more information on the NSDCI visit **http://nsdci.library.ns.ca/index.shtml**.

COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY CENTRE NETWORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A team of six NS Community Access Program (CAP) representatives attended the 2004 CTC Net Annual Conference in Seattle, WA in June. The Community Technology Centre Network (CTC Net) is an American membership driven organization, representing agencies and programs that provide opportunities to people of all ages who typically lack access to computers and related technologies. Their programs and issues are similar to CAP sites and libraries in Canada. CTCs offer a varied range of services to their users, and also face the challenge of diminishing resources and increasing need and expectations.

Trudy Amirault, Debbie Hennigar, Fern MacDonald, David Murdoch, Karen I. Parusel and Eric Stackhouse attended a wide variety of conference sessions, including such topics as engaging youth in community driven technology projects, using technology as a community capacity building tool, sessions on the newest technology to meet the needs of persons with disabilities, and sessions on how to establish the proper evaluation methodology. A report from this group providing a synopsis of the sessions attended and a list of resources will follow later in July.

More information about CTC Net and the conference can be found at: **www.ctcnewt.org**.

Trudy and Karen also had the chance to visit the new central branch of the Seattle Public Library. Located downtown, the intricate glass building, affectionately called *the frog* by the locals, has 328 staff and more than 1.45 million books and materials housed in 362,987 square feet. And it wouldn't be Seattle, home to Microsoft, without lots of technology. There are over 400 public access computers located throughout all eight floors. Trudy and Karen counted at least 200 just in one large *lab* area. And you thought you had technical support issues! Another impressive feature was the library's automated check in and sorting system. RFI, or radio frequency identification, using microchips and radio frequency instead of bar codes to sort, track and distribute materials. Conveyor belts take materials away from check in areas to be sorted and reshelved. Just in case anyone has a little extra in their capital costs budget - the price tag was $165 million - U.S. dollars, of course.

The website for the Seattle public Library is: **www.spl.org**.

HACKMATACK CHILDREN'S CHOICE AWARD WINNERS 2004

Shown left to right are Hackmatack winning authors Lucia Cavezzali (Français) for *Operation Juliette*, Alan Cumyn (English Fiction) for *The Secret Life of Owen Skye* and Karen Levine (English Non-Fiction) for *Hana's Suitcase*.

REFERENCE ON THE NET

Here are some more reference questions which were referred to the Provincial Library by the Regional Public Libraries and answered with help from resources found on the Internet.

Q. The patron wants photocopies of the sections under *Income Tax Services* from the yellow pages of the Vancouver phone books for the years 1993-1996.

A. No local locations were found for this so the Vancouver Public Library Catalogue at **http://ipac2.vpl.ca/ipac20/ipac.jsp?profile=pac** was searched. A search under either the title *Vancouver telephone directory* or *Vancouver yellow pages* brought up the record which gives detailed holdings information. The record says that vol.2 is the yellow pages and the holdings indicate that Vancouver Public Library has vol.2 for each year requested except 1994. The AMICUS database at **http://amicus.nlc-bnc.ca/aaweb/aalogine.htm** was then searched for other locations which might have the 1994 yellow pages. This showed that the W.A.C. Bennett Library, Simon Fraser University has the Vancouver yellow pages and a search of their catalogue at **http://troy.lib.sfu.ca/** indicated that it has pt.2, the yellow pages for 1992/93, 1994/95, 1995/96 and 1996/97. Copies of the required section could then be requested from these libraries through interlibrary loan.

Q. Looking for the population of the city of Halifax between 1820 and 1860.

A. *Early Canadiana Online* at **http://www.canadiana.org/eco/english/index.html** provided figures for three years during this period. To search this large collection of full text publications click on *Search the Collections* and with search set to full text enter *population halifax* in the search box. Make sure that *Matches on all words* is checked and check *10 word span* so that the words *population* and *halifax* appear within 10 words of each other to reduce the number of non-relevant search results. You can further limit the results by selecting *English documents*. Under each record in the results, the pages which match the search parameters are listed so that you can click on each page to check it. The two titles which had relevant population figures were *The British dominions in North America, or, A topographical and statistical description of the provinces of Lower and Upper Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, the Islands of Newfoundland, Prince Edward, and Cape Breton...* where the population for the city of Halifax for 1827 is on p. 20 and *Eighty years' progress of British North America....* which gives the population for the city of Halifax for 1851 and 1861 on p. 679.

LINKed

In anticipation of the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens from August 13 to 29 this month's *Linked* column features sites with useful information on past, present and future Olympic games. Follow the countdown to the games and

the latest information about them at the official website of the Athens 2004 Olympic and Paralympic Games at **http://www.athens2004.com/athens2004/**.

The National Library of Canada has developed the image database *Canadian Olympians: Athl tes olympiques canadiens* which is located on the Library and Archives Canada web site at **http://www.collectionscanada.ca/olympians/**. Currently there are more than 10,000 images of Canadian Olympic athletes from the mid-1900's to 2000 which can be searched by keyword or browsed by athlete, sport, olympics or medal. The site also has an essay on the history of Canadian Olympic sports titled *Canadians and the Olympics* by Bruce Kidd, Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Physical Education and Health at the University of Toronto. In addition there is an Educational Resources section where there are lesson plans, activity ideas and a crossword puzzle.

The Rare Books and Special Collections Division, McGill University has a collection of over 4,500 items on the history of the Olympic Games, Olympic Winter Games, Pan American Games and the Commonwealth Games. This has been put in a searchable database on the web site *Canadian Olympic Collection: Collection olympique canadienne* at **http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/olympics/**. The collection can be searched by selecting *Search* from the drop-down menu at the top of the page.

The Centre d'Estudis Olímpics, Universitat Aut noma de Barcelona at **http://olympicstudies.uab.es/eng/index.html** has a useful directory of links on the Olympics which are arranged by subject. *The School Resources* section has links to material which has been developed for use with youth in educational settings. The site is available in either Spanish or English.

Canadian Olympic Committee: Comité olympique canadien at **http://www.olympic.ca/** is the official website of the Canadian Olympic Committee. It has the latest news on Canadian participation in the Athens Olympic games, plus information on preparations for future games. You can click on *Athletes Profile Search* to search the database of Canadian athletes who have participated in past Olympics.

The International Olympic Committee's *Official Web Site of the Olympic Movement* is at **http://www.olympic.org/**. *The Olympic Games* section has highlights of past Olympic Games. Click on the *Direct* access menu for links to other sites such as the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland and the web sites of future Olympic Games.

Web sites which were featured in previous *Linked* columns are arranged by subject category on the Reference Services page of the Provincial Library web site at **http://www.library.ns.ca/services/reference/index.htm**. If you have any suggestions about future topics for this column please contact Carol Morris at **morrisc@gov.ns.ca**.

Credits go to:
Michelle Bowden, Project Coordinator, Family Literacy Research Project, CEHRL

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